

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2002**

**ATTENDANCE**

**COUNCIL:** Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (Chair - District 4), Jerry Trumps (Vice Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (District 2), Chris Williams (District 3), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Randy Menard (District 9)

**ABSENT:** Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Rob Stevenson (District 8)

**COUNCIL STAFF:** Norma Dugas (Clerk), Veronica Williams, (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Becky Lalumia (Finance), John Raines (Director of Public Works)

**COMMENCEMENT**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. called the Special Council Meeting of November 15, 2002 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(008) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Jerry Trumps was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lafayette City-Parish President Comeaux commented that the fire and police propositions voted on during the November 5 elections state that the funds are dedicated and can only be used for fireman and policeman salaries and related benefits. Any other use of these funds would be illegal. The residents will not pay the mills until December 2003, therefore, the funds for the salary increase will not be available until that time. The Administration is currently reviewing ways to advance the monies that would allow for the fire and police to receive a portion of their increases in the near future.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(039) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Emergency O-300-2002 An emergency ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing all necessary contractual services with reference to tree removal/storm debris removal from private property in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") guidelines, which debris was caused by Hurricane Lili in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana and to provide funding therefore. A motion to approve by Menard, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Menard

NAYS: Mouton

ABSENT: Badeaux, Stevenson

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved as amended.*

John Raines, Public Works Director, opened his comments by saying the original estimate of debris was 300,000 to 400,000 cubic yards with an estimated cost of \$2,136,000 (LCG's share would be approximately \$320,400). Currently, there has been a total of 520,000 cubic yards collected, which exceeds the original estimate. With the first round not yet complete, there is an estimate of 800,000 cubic yards that will be collected by the end of the round. The total estimated cost is \$4,272,000 (LCG's share would be \$640,800).

Public Works' first priority after the storm was to remove the larger debris around the parish. Another concern was to ensure LCG continued to remain in compliance with FEMA regulations. Currently, Phase I of the cleanup is 75% complete. The Public Works Inspectors are in the verification stage verifying when the first phase will be complete. If residents feel they have been missed, Raines requested those residents call his office to report the location. Once Phase I is complete, Phases II should be completed within the next 20 – 30 days. Public Works has no

authorization on implementing a program to go on private property for debris removal. The proposed ordinance, in accordance with FEMA guidelines, will allow for private property debris removal.

If approved, the property owner must register a request with Public Works by Friday, November 22 at 3:00 pm. Failure to register by the deadline will result in exclusion from consideration. In order for a property owner to be eligible, they must meet specific FEMA requirements. If the request has been deemed eligible, as determined by the Team, the tree(s) will be identified and right of entry required. If the right of entry is refused, in whole or part, the request will be rendered ineligible. If right of entry is granted, the tree(s) will be identified and be included in the bid.

For those residents that may be determined ineligible, Public Works will track those requests and they will be submitted to United Way and other community services for further assistance.

At this point, City-Parish Attorney Steve Dupuis requested an amendment be made in the emergency ordinance and the introductory ordinance, which would change the deadline time, **from 5:00 pm. to 3:00 pm.** The maker and second of the motion accepted the amendment.

Upon questioning by Mouton, Jerry Greener of FEMA, stated FEMA does not pay for claims that the insurance companies pay for. He added that this is the first time that FEMA has been involved with private property debris removal. Broussard expressed his concerns with regard to the remaining debris and the expediency of the contractor. Upon questioning by Trumps, Greener explained FEMA's reimbursement is 75%, the state's is 10% and local government is the remaining 15%. The subject property must be owner occupied in order to receive assistance from FEMA for debris removal.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(001)

Once all requests have been received, Public Works will submit the information to FEMA. Teams will be developed to investigate all sites and will determine whether the request by the resident is eligible or ineligible. Menard reiterated the FEMA guidelines state the tree(s) must be an immediate threat to private property in order to be eligible for removal.

### **INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(107) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: A motion to approve by Menard, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Badeaux, Stevenson

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

4. O-301-2002 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing all necessary contractual services with reference to tree removal/storm debris removal from private property in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") guidelines, which debris was caused by Hurricane Lili in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana and to provide funding therefore.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(121) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Comments from the public concerning the above Introductory Ordinance.

*None.*

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Benjamin declared the special Council meeting adjourned.

---

Norma A. Dugas  
Clerk of the Council